

M I N U T E S

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

June 27, 1977

Lincoln, Nebraska

Members Present

Representative Ambrose Dempsey, Chairman  
Representative Richard Adams  
Representative Dean Hinshaw  
Representative John Vogel  
Representative George Works  
Representative Ralph Bussman  
Senator Joe Norvell

Staff Present

Ronald D. Smith, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
John Rowe, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Don Hayward, Revisor of Statutes Office

Conferees and Others Present

W. W. Duitsman, Secretary, Kansas Board of Agriculture  
Donald L. Jacka, Jr., Assistant Secretary, Kansas Board of Agriculture  
Bob Gunert, Control Division, Kansas Board of Agriculture  
Lowell Burchett, Kansas Crop Improvement Association  
Gene Sedivy, Bureau of Plant Industry, Nebraska Department of Agriculture  
Glenn Kreuzer, Secretary, Nebraska Department of Agriculture

The Special Committee on Agriculture and Livestock left Topeka at 6:00 a.m. for its trip to Lincoln, Nebraska, and a tour of the Nebraska Seed Laboratory. Upon arriving in Lincoln, the Committee met with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Mr. Glenn Kreuzer, Secretary of Agriculture, introduced his staff and briefly explained the organizational structure of their Department of Agriculture. Mr. Gene Sedivy, Director of the Bureau of Plant Industry, gave a brief presentation on the Nebraska Seed Laboratory.

Following the presentation, members of the Committee asked questions and engaged in a discussion of the Seed Laboratory's operation. Some of the major questions and discussion centered around the following areas of interest:

1. Proportion of revenue for operation of Seed Laboratory from general revenues and service fees. Nebraska has an approximately 80-20 split.
2. Use of temporary help in peak seasons. Nebraska does not hire temporary help; instead laboratory personnel are multi-talented and shift around in various peak seasons.
3. Service fee increases. New fee schedules went into effect in 1975. Adopted from Iowa state's schedule. Loss of customers from fee increases has been minimal.
4. Additional modes of funding. Nebraska does not have a license fee or any other type of fee requirement for seed dealers.
5. Crop Improvement Association. Nebraska's Crop Improvement Association has its own laboratory within the University of Nebraska for its testing needs.

6. Use of control personnel to collect regulatory samples. Nebraska has nine inspectors that collect seed samples in addition to their other duties.

Following the meeting, the Nebraska Secretary of Agriculture took the Committee on a tour of the department's new 14,500 square feet office facilities located in the new state office building. As the Committee toured the office, questions were raised by various members about their commodity programs, pesticide program, and weights and measures program. The Committee recessed for lunch with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

In the afternoon, the Committee members toured the Seed Laboratory and examined the equipment. A question was raised as to the cost of new germinators. Mr. Sedivy responded that they cost approximately \$7,000 each. In addition to touring the Seed Laboratory, the Committee also toured the Dairy, Pesticide, Animal Disease, and Weight and Measures Laboratories, which are all located in the same building.

Following the tour, the Committee held a brief concluding meeting with officials from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. After the Nebraska officials left, the members discussed what they had seen and heard about the Nebraska Seed Laboratory. The staff reviewed the notes they had taken and pointed out the important findings that may be relevant to the study of Proposal No. 3. In the discussion, comments centered around the equipment differences, fees and methods of obtaining additional revenue, use of additional help during peak seasons, and increasing the field inspectors by one.

The Committee instructed the staff to determine the total cost of the regulatory seed program in Kansas and to gather additional information on alternative funding methods. Senator Norvell informed the Committee that he would be requesting the Attorney General to issue an opinion on various aspects of the Kansas Filled Milk Act.

Prepared by Ronald D. Smith

Approved by Committee on:

July 27, 1977  
(Date)